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REPORT

CD NO.

STAT

COUNTRY Yugoslavia
 SUBJECT Sociological - Hungarian minority
 HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspaper
 WHERE PUBLISHED Zagreb
 DATE PUBLISHED 7 Aug 1951
 LANGUAGE Serbo-Croatian

DATE OF INFORMATION 1951

DATE DIST. 28 Nov 1951

NO. OF PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Borba.

HUNGARIAN MINORITY IN CROATIA HAS
OVER 30 ORGANIZATIONS, MANY SCHOOLS

Hungarian minorities live in many localities in Croatia, particularly in Slavonia and Baranja. Umajevac, Vardarac, Lug, and other villages are completely Hungarian.

Before the war not one of these villages had an elementary school teaching the Hungarian language. Children had to attend schools some kilometers from their homes. Consequently, there were many illiterates in these villages; in Baranja, 15 to 20 percent of the people were illiterate.

Today, all inhabitants up to 45 years old in Slavonia and Baranja have learned to read and write. In addition to many courses being given, 24 elementary schools have been opened in which instruction is in Hungarian. An 8-year school has been functioning in Zmajevac for some time. These are the first Hungarian schools to function here in 30 years. More schools will be opened in 1951; teachers will be furnished by the Hungarian Teachers' College in the Vojvodina. It is also planned to establish a teachers' college in Zmajevac, one of the largest Hungarian villages. In addition to the large number of students in the elementary schools, many Hungarians are attending secondary and technical schools and colleges.

Before the war the Hungarian minority in Croatia did not have a single cultural or art association. Some villages had unsuccessfully attempted to establish associations.

In mid-1949 the first cultural and art association for Hungarians living in Croatia was established in Zmajevac; later other associations, and a federation of these associations were established. Today there are 30 such associations with 1,500 members in Croatia.

All these associations have shown good results. The "Joze Attila" Cultural-Art Association in Zmajevac, and the "Kiseren" Association in Cuza participated in festivals held by such organizations in Zagreb. The "Joze Attila" Association

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received an award for being one of the best in Croatia. Dramatic groups from all the associations have presented plays by Yugoslav and other writers, primarily Hungarian. The greatest success in this direction was attained by the association in Batina Skela, which presented ten plays in its own area and other places in Slavonia and Baranja. A number of such dramatic groups toured the Vojvodina where the Hungarian minority lives. The "Napker" Association from Subotica also played in some villages as well as in Subotica.

In 1951, the present associations are expected to increase in number and membership, with the help of the Magyar Nep, the federation's official publication.

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